

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION London Loop 5a: Hamsey Green to Coulsdon South Station 28 March 2009

This walk has been organised by David Pick

The London Loop, pioneered by the London Walking Forum, is London's first official orbital footpath, a fascinating journey around the edge of greater London. The definitive guide, "The London Loop" was written by David Sharp, list price £12.99. This guide contains maps, directions, detailed descriptions of the local scenery and facilities on the route. The whole route is about 150 miles long and Sharp's book divides it into 15 sections, starting and stopping at convenient transit points. We propose splitting his sections 5 and 6 into 3 parts to avoid stopping at Banstead station, which has only an hourly train service back into London. This section, part 5a, is about 10 km. It is mostly level, but there are three long climbs (two of them very steep with steps).

The starting point is the Good Companions pub at Hamsey Green. Aim to be there at about 11.15. From central Croydon take the 403 bus. The details can be found on <http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk>. From West Croydon Station exit turn left and left again to find bus stop B2. From East Croydon station, walk to Fairfield Halls and use bus stop KA. Buses are every 12 minutes and take about 40 mins (West Croydon) & 36 mins (Fairfield Halls). Alight at Hamsey Green (displayed on the bus stop indicator) and stop just past the Good Companion, which is on the right with respect to direction of travel of the bus.



We go down Tithepit Shaw Lane. The "Walk London" web site describes this section as:

"A very attractive section of quite strenuous (*not that hard!*) walking features in quick succession four commons controlled by the Corporation of London viz. Riddlesdown, Kenley Common, Coulsdon Common and Farthing Downs - the latter providing a long ridge walk with fine views and grazing cattle... You pass Kenley Aerodrome, a renowned wartime air base, but you need not fear noise as it is only used for gliding nowadays. Two small observatories nearby are operated by the Croydon Astronomical Society. Between Coulsdon

Common and Farthing Downs come Happy Valley and Devilsden Wood, owned by the London Borough of Croydon. The Downlands Circular Walk and Socratic Trail also pass through this idyllic area, where rare plants thrive.

The Wattenden Arms, Kenley Common is a good lunch stop. It has the appearance of being the local RAF pub, when the airfield was active.

The cost is £2.

Latecomers can contact me on my mobile number 0037253135263 to find out where we are. Details of the route and a picturesque map can be found at <http://www.walklondon.org.uk/section.asp?section=5> and <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/gettingaround/walkfinder/walkdetails.asp?id=78>